



BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

EXCURSION/NEWS SHEET - OCTOBER, 1975.

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NEXT MEETING

Friday 3rd October
 Central Technical School, 8pm
 Speaker - Mr Ern Perkins, who will speak and show slides of North-Western Victoria.

NEXT EXCURSION

Will be on October 5th, and will be to the Lal Lal area.

LAST MEETING

Was cancelled due to it being in the school holidays.

LAST EXCURSION (SEPTEMBER 7th)

A warm sunny day made our September excursion very enjoyable. We were under the guidance of Mr. Wally Coles, who took us to the Muckleford Forest area near Maldon. This is an area of light forest and woodlands that contains the hard timbered eucalypts of the box/ironbark groups. Some noted were *E. polyanthemus* (red box), *E. microcarpa* (inland grey Box), *E. macrorhyncha* (red stringybark), *E. leucoxydon* (yellow gum), *E. melliodora* (yellow box), *E. goniacalyx* (bundy), and *E. sideroxydon* (red ironbark).

As expected, the understorey

provided a wide range of color. Some plants seen in color were the beautiful *Boronia anemonifolia* (sticky boronia), *Diuris pedunculata* (golden moths), *Diuris maculata* (leopard orchid) the delightful *Triostemon verrucosus* (fairy waxflower), *Pterostylis barbata* (bearded greenhood) and a small attractive patch of shrub violets (*Lianthus floribundis*).

Relics of the gold era were noted in various places. Among these were a puppet head and a group of gold crucibles.

Our day concluded with a walk along the banks of the Loddon River at Newstead. Here we saw a magnificent River Gum - *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and the trunk of this tree had a circumference of 27 feet.

Contributed by Mrs. Murphy.

AT THE OCTOBER MEETING, we hope to have three books on show by the artist and ornithologist, Gracius Broinowski. These books are the property of the Ballarat Field Naturalist club, and soon will be placed in the Municipal

library, where you will need a special note from the President or the secretary, or someone like that to see them. Here is a short note on the man who wrote these books.

Gracius Broinowski was born at Wielun in Poland in 1837. He studied classics, languages and art subjects at the Munich University. He was conscripted into the army as a common soldier, but by escaping into Germany, he evaded this service. Eventually he went to London where he earned a meagre living teaching French.

The youth was interested in tales he heard of Australia, so he decided to migrate. A few months after he arrived at Portland, the young Pole made his way inland and obtained employment on a sheep-station. Then he took up land in the Mallee, but found the work neither profitable or congenial; so he went to Melbourne. He worked there in a restaurant before he obtained the position of canvasser with a publishing firm. It was at this time that he married a daughter of a whaler, Jane Smith.

His leisure time was now devoted to the study of art; he began to paint and thought of the idea of holding "art unions" with his paintings as prizes. In 1880 he moved to Sydney, where he soon became established. He had classes in several colleges. He also had a large number of private pupils. During the 1880s he was commissioned by the Education Department to paint pictures of the birds and mammals of Australia. These, mounted on board and varnished, were hung in class-rooms throughout N.S.W. Later they were reproduced in books.

It was largely owing to Broinowski's work that the New South Wales Government began to take an interest in the preservation of Australian birds. When he had completed his work for the Education Department, he began work on his "Birds of Australia", a work of six volumes profusely illustrated in color and containing notes on every bird then known in Australia. In this work his wife was of much assistance.

Broinowski again engaged in farming, at Campbelltown, N.S.W., during the compilation of "Birds of Australia", but later returned to Sydney where he lived in retirement until his death on 12th April, 1913.

"Birds of Australia" was his most important work. It contained 100 color plates, and it was issued in 36 monthly instalments at 10 shillings each, 1889-91. The purpose of the book was to replace Gould's "Bird's Of Australia".

: Why do birds fly south in Winter?
: Because it's too far to walk.

BUTTERFLIES

IDENTIFICATION AND LABELLING OF INSECTS

In classification of an insect it is very important to show the place it was found, the date, the common name and the scientific name, and the name of the collector, eg...

COMMON GRASS YELLOW

Eurema hecabe phoebus

FOUND Ballarat March 1971

A. McKenzie.

These are the basics. Other items like methods of catching, or if you bred them, weather, etc., all make interesting study.

The identification label should be placed near the insect in the display case, or under the insect attached to the pin.

There are many books which can help you in your effort to identify the insect and I have found an extremely good reference book from the Jacaranda Press:- 'Australian Butterflies' by I.F.B. Common. Others include:-

Australian Moths - by the same author

Insects of Australia - Edgar Riek

Australian Insects - John Child (Periwinkle Press)

Australian Spiders - " "

Australian Butterflies in color - Burns and Rotherham

Australian Nature Studies - J.A. Leach

After Identification the insect can be mounted for display. A shirt box is excellent to begin with. A sheet of 15 to 25 mm polystyrene foam in the back and you have an instant display case which will serve you well.

But shirt boxes are not airtight and if the proper precautions are not taken the museum bug (a tiny insect which eats away at the bodies of the insects, first discovered naturally in a museum) will take up domain in your collections. A way of deterring these pests is to place naphthalene flakes in the box.

Insect cabinets may be made of wood or steel or may be purchased from the Australian Entomological Suppliers (N.E.W.). These are very expensive (750 dollars) but give the collection the best protection. If you are mounting the box on a wall or pin board, make sure it is not in direct sunlight as this fades the wings of Butterflies and Moths.

- A. McKenzie.

HOLIDAYS

From 1st September, for week, we enjoyed the peace and quiet camping in the Little Desert National Park near Kiata. The former Kiata State school has been set up as a very comprehensive information centre. On display was a collection of some 30 different plants in bloom. The Rangers, who are busy preparing a new camping area some 2 miles further away, were most helpful.

Of 58 different birds seen, the most notable were Diamond Firetails, Crested ligeons, Peaceful Doves, Purple-Backed Wrens, White-Eared Honeyeaters nesting two foot from the ground, nesting tree martins, also Southern Scrub Robins. Near the Salt Lakes was a large area of pink boronia in bloom, but someone has made a mess of the sand dunes using trail bikes etc. We were not lucky enough to see the Lowan, but did find a nest mound being worked right in the middle of a firetrail which has been diverted around the mound.

Contributed by the Frys.

ON THE DATE PAD

18th - 19th October W.V.F.N.C.A. at Hall's Gap

29th March 1976 Photoflora 76 at Ballarat

CAN YOU HELP?

Wal Coles requires information on Flame Robin sightings.

To assist a Fishery and Wildlife Department survey information regarding Peregrine Falcons is required.

Data Required In Both Cases:-

Date, Number, Where Seen, and Weather Conditions.

SUGGESTIONS for 1976 Syllabus and Excursions are required.

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As the Secretary anticipates being overseas April to August next year, who is available?

What is the future of the Newsletter? At the same time, the Editor will require much assistance, or would some one like to take the newsletter on? Ability to type would be an asset.

EXCURSION TO ANGLESEA.

On the 23th of ~~September~~ several members enjoyed an excursion to Anglesea to the Wildflower and Art and Craft display. After lunch at Miss White's sister's house, Miss White showed us around the Anglesea bush and showed us some interesting plants. More of this next month.